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February 7, 2025

VIA CM/ECF ELECTRONIC FILING

The Hon. Michael A. Hammer, U.S.M.J. United States District Court for the District of New Jersey MLK Building & U.S. Courthouse 50 Walnut Street, Room 4015 Newark, NJ 07101

> Khaled Elsisi v. CFT Solutions LLC et al. RE:

> > Case No. 2:23:cv-20773

Dear Judge Hammer:

We represent Defendants, CFT Solutions, LLC, Renan De Rocha Gomes Bastos, and Arthur Percy (collectively, "Defendants"). On January 8, 2025, the Court set a hearing to address Plaintiffs' counsel's motions to withdraw and Plaintiffs' intentions to proceed pro se. (ECF No. 75-79). Your Honor expressly required in-person attendance. On January 27, 2025, Plaintiffs circulated a request for permission to appear remotely, but they did not actually file it. We include a copy of same herewith as officers of the Court.

As grounds, Plaintiffs claim—one month in advance and absent any evidence—that weather conditions may disrupt travel and that potential health risks and financial hardship. Your Honor should decline Plaintiffs' request. This is a complex matter involving allegations of RICO violations, as well as challenges to personal jurisdiction and subject matter jurisdiction that becomes more complex as Plaintiffs' representation and interests fracture. To wit, five of the Plaintiffs apparently retained new counsel, but he has yet to file an appearance on their behalfs. An in-person hearing is necessary to effectively resolve the pending issues related to Plaintiffs' representation and their ability to prosecute this action collectively going forward. Counsel for codefendant Mr. Israel indicated his preference to proceed virtually.

Respectfully,

/s/ Justin B. Kaplan

Cc: All counsel (with enclosure)

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Michael A. Hammer United States Magistrate Judge Martin Luther King Building & U.S. Courthouse 50 Walnut Street Room 4015 Newark, NJ 07101

Re: Elsisi et al. v. CFT Solutions, LLC et al. 2:23-cv-20773-MEF-MAH

Dear Judge Hammer:

We, all the undersigned plaintiffs in the above-captioned matter, respectfully request that the hearing scheduled for February 25, 2025, be conducted via Zoom. This request is made in light of the anticipated severe weather conditions in New Jersey during that period, which could present significant travel disruptions and potential health risks, particularly for plaintiffs with pre-existing medical conditions.

Furthermore, the financial burden associated with traveling long distances from Florida, Nevada, and Australia imposes an undue hardship on some of the plaintiffs, given the substantial costs of airfare, lodging, and other related expenses. Conducting the hearing remotely would not only alleviate these challenges but also ensure full participation without compromising our well-being and financial stability. The Plaintiffs firmly believe that a virtual hearing would uphold the principles of fairness and accessibility while maintaining the efficiency and integrity of the judicial process.

Part of the Plaintiffs would like to bring to the Court's attention that — Roman, Springfield, Masters, Szabo, and Lewis—have taken proactive steps to ensure compliance with the Court's procedural requirements by retaining Charles Beard, Esq., a distinguished Florida attorney with extensive experience in securities fraud.

Mr. Beard's engagement is instrumental in assisting us with critical aspects of the case, including reviewing our filings to ensure accuracy and compliance, providing strategic legal guidance, clarifying complex court orders, and ensuring we adhere to all deadlines and procedural requirements. His expertise not only enhances our ability to navigate this litigation effectively but also addresses the Court's prior concerns regarding representation and procedural compliance.

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While we remain committed to pursuing our claims diligently, financial constraints have unfortunately prevented us from securing full legal representation. Despite these challenges, Mr. Beard's guidance serves as a crucial resource to help us proceed effectively within the legal framework. At present, the remaining plaintiffs from New Jersey continue to proceed pro se, as they have not yet secured consulting assistance or any form of legal representation.

In addition, Roman, Springfield, Szabo, Masters, and Lewis have recently taken a significant step by sending a Letter of Intent to Sue and a Proposed Complaint to our former attorney, Elena Fast. This upcoming hearing directly pertains to Mrs. Fast's withdrawal, and we are submitting the following documents in support of our position: (1) a copy of the Letter of Intent to Sue sent to Ms. Fast, (2) the resume of attorney Charles Beard, demonstrating his extensive qualifications and relevant experience in securities fraud, and (3) our formal agreement with Mr. Beard, outlining his specific role in our case.

To ensure the Court is well-informed, we are attaching the Letter of Intent to Sue, which was sent to The Fast Law Firm on January 24, 2025. This letter underscores our collective determination to seek legal recourse against the firm, limited to the five plaintiffs listed herein, while clarifying that the remaining nine plaintiffs from New Jersey are not part of this action. The letter is further supported by a proposed complaint, which we are prepared to file should The Fast Law Firm decline to engage in pre-trial settlement discussions. Furthermore, in the interest of fairness and procedural diligence, we formally request that The Fast Law Firm provide their liability insurance details, allowing us to notify their insurer of our intent to sue and submit the proposed complaint. We remain committed to pursuing this matter with the utmost integrity and diligence, and we appreciate the Court's attention to these critical developments in our case.

The attached documents demonstrate our diligent efforts to address the ongoing issues in a responsible and cooperative manner, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the case progresses effectively and without unnecessary delays. We respectfully request the Court to take these significant developments into account and grant the withdrawal of The Fast Law Firm to prevent further conflict, inefficiency, and potential prejudice to the plaintiffs.

Additionally, we seek the Court's approval for remote attendance at the upcoming hearing scheduled for February 25, 2025, via Zoom. Allowing virtual participation will not only facilitate the involvement of all parties—especially those facing logistical and financial challenges—but also uphold the principles of judicial efficiency and accessibility. We are confident that granting this request will contribute to a fair and expedient resolution of the matter.

We sincerely appreciate the Court's time and consideration, and we remain available to provide any further information or clarification as needed.

Enclosures:

- Letter of Intent to Sue (Elena Fast)
- Charles Beard's Resume
- Agreement with Charles Beard

Dated: January 27, 2025

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

We hereby certify that on January 27, 2025, a copy of the foregoing document was served on all counsel of record via email, including The Fast Law firm.

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